



**REMARKS**

Claims 1-28 are presently pending in the application.

In the present Office Action, the Examiner has issued a restriction requirement among the claims of Group I (claims 1-5, 7, and 9-20), directed to a flexible circuit board, and the claims of Group II (claims 21-28), directed to a method producing a flexible circuit board. The Examiner argues that the inventions of Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1, because they lack the same special technical features. Applicant's undersigned representative notes that the telephone call to William Schwarze on February 21, 2006 which is referred to by the Examiner was never received.

**PROVISIONAL ELECTION**

While not necessarily agreeing with the Examiner's restriction requirement, Applicants provisionally elect the claims of Group I (claims 1-5, 7, and 9-20), directed to a flexible circuit board, for initial prosecution on the merits. Early examination of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Kouichi Hiranaka et al.**

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(Date)

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